

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A transcoding apparatus [(1)] for use in a switching network of a telecommunication system, said transcoding apparatus [(1)] including:

- a plurality of transcoding units for source encoding and decoding data, for example speech data, wherein at least one transcoding unit [(11)] of said plurality is capable of operating in tandem-free operation mode,
- switching means [(12)] adapted to switch data through said plurality of transcoding units,
- a transcoder controller [(13)] for controlling said switching means [(12)] and said plurality of transcoding units,

wherein said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to instruct said switching means [(12)] to insert one of said at least one transcoding unit [(11)] into a data path associated with a connection between a mobile terminal of said telecommunication system and said switching network, and

wherein said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to instruct said one of said at least one transcoding unit [(11)] to operate in tandem-free operation mode wherein characterised in that

said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means [(12)] to eliminate said one of said at least one transcoding unit [(11)] from said data path.

2. (Currently Amended) The [(A)] transcoding apparatus according to claim 1, further including:

- a plurality of TCME units [(31)] for performing TFO-specific circuit multiplication operations

wherein said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to instruct said switching means [(12)] to insert one of said plurality of TCME units [(31)] into said data path, and

wherein said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means [(12)] to eliminate said one of said plurality of TCME units [(31)] from said data path.

3. (Currently Amended) The [(A)] transcoding apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to determine whether or not a switching controller [(22)] of said switching network intends to add supplementary services during said connection, and

wherein said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means [(12)] to eliminate said one of said at least one transcoding unit [(11)] from said data path, if said switching controller [(22)] does not intend to add supplementary services.

4. (Currently Amended) The [(A)] transcoding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means [(12)] to insert one of said plurality of transcoding units into said data path, if said switching controller [(22)] intends to add supplementary services.

5. (Currently Amended) The [(A)] transcoding apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to determine whether or not a switching controller [(22)] of said switching network intends to add supplementary services during said connection, and

wherein said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means [(12)] to eliminate said one of said at least one transcoding unit [(11)] as well as said one of said plurality of TCME units [(31)] from

said data path, if said switching controller [(22)] does not intend to add supplementary services.

6. (Currently Amended) The [(A)] transcoding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means [(12)] to insert one of said plurality of transcoding units as well as one of said plurality of TCME units [(31)] into said data path, if said switching controller [(22)] intends to add supplementary services.

7. (Currently Amended) The [(A)] transcoding apparatus according to claim 6 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said transcoder controller [(13)] is adapted to determine, based on an evaluation of locally available information, whether or not a switching controller [(22)] of said switching network intends to add supplementary services during said connection.

8. (Currently Amended) The [(A)] transcoding apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said locally available information includes results of a supervision of inputs and outputs of said transcoding apparatus [(1)].

9. (Currently Amended) The [(A)] transcoding apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said locally available information includes results of a supervision of reports from said one of said at least one transcoding units [(11)] and/or from said one of said plurality of TCME units [(31)].

10. (Currently Amended) The [(A)] transcoding apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said locally available information includes information received from said switching controller [(22)].

11. (Currently Amended) The [(A)] transcoding apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said information received from said switching controller [(22)] includes port address information.

12. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] transcoding apparatus according to claim 11 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, further including at least one protocol/interface conversion unit ~~(15,16,17)~~ for performing protocol conversion operations between different interfaces, wherein said transcoder controller [[[13]]] is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means [[[12]]] to insert one of said at least one protocol/interface conversion unit into said data path.

13. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] transcoding apparatus according to claim 12 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, further including at least one link supervision function unit [[[14]]] for monitoring the TFO protocol wherein said transcoder controller [[[13]]] is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means [[[12]]] to insert one of said at least one link supervision function unit [[[14]]] into said data path.

14. (Currently Amended) A TCME head apparatus [[[3]]] for use in a switching network of a telecommunication system, said TCME head apparatus [[[3]]] including:

- a plurality of TCME units [[[31]]] for performing TFO-specific circuit multiplication operations
- switching means [[[32]]] adapted to switch data through said plurality of TCME units [[[31]]],
- a TCME head controller [[[33]]] for controlling said switching means [[[32]]] and said plurality of TCME units [[[31]]],

wherein said TCME head controller [[[33]]] is adapted to instruct said switching means [[[32]]] to insert one of said plurality of TCME units [[[31]]] into a data path associated with a connection between a mobile terminal of said telecommunication system and said switching network, wherein

~~characterised in that~~

said TCME head controller [[[33]]] is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means [[[32]]] to eliminate said one of said plurality of TCME units [[[31]]] from said data path.

15. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] TCME head apparatus according to claim 14,

wherein said TCME head controller [[[33]]] is adapted to determine whether or not a switching controller [[(22)]] of said switching network intends to add supplementary services during said connection, and

wherein said TCME head controller [[[33]]] is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means [[(32)]] to eliminate said one of said plurality of TCME units [[[31]]] from said data path, if said switching controller [[(22)]] does not intend to add supplementary services.

16. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] TCME head apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said TCME head controller [[[33]]] is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means [[(32)]] to insert one of said plurality of TCME units [[[31]]] into said data path, if said switching controller [[(22)]] intends to add supplementary services.

17. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] TCME head apparatus according to ~~any of the claims 14 to claim~~ 16, wherein said TCME head controller [[[33]]] is adapted to determine, based on an evaluation of locally available information, whether or not a switching controller [[(22)]] of said switching network intends to add supplementary services during said connection.